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Urban District Council of Norton-Radstock
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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year ended 31st December, 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the Norton-Radstock Urban District Council.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and health of your District for the year ended 31st December, 1947.

SECTION A.

(1) Area (in acres)	3,360.
(2) Population	12,056.
(3) Number of inhabited houses.	3,369.
(4) Rateable Value	£43,336.
(5) Sum represented by a penny rate	£174.

(6) Chief industries:-

Coal Mining
Agriculture
Paper Bag Making
Printing
Glove Making
Wagon Repair Works
Timber Constructional Works

Unemployment

There were on the average about 38 persons unemployed each week during the past year (Males 38, Females 0).

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Part 1 of the Act.

(1) Inspections for health purposes (including made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of: Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	41	16	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	11	4	0	0
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	52	20	0	0

(2) Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.			
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	0	0
Overcrowding	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable Temperature	0	0	0	0
Inadequate Ventilation	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences:-				
(a) Insufficient	0	0	0	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	0	0	0	2
(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	1
Total	1	1	0	4

Part V111 of the Act.

Outwork - (Section 110)

Nature of Work	Number of Outworkers in August list required by Section 110(i)(c)
Wearing Apparel Making.	102.

Vital Statistics

Births	Total.	Male.	Female.
Live Births -			
Legitimate	194	98	96
Illegitimate	1	0	1
Still Births -			
Legitimate	2	2	0
Illegitimate	0	0	0

The birth rate per 1,000 of the estimate population ... 16.3

Deaths 131. Male 64. Female 67.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimate population 10.9

Death Rate from Puerperal Causes . 0.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age

All infants per 1,000 live births 30.9

Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births 30.9

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births 0.

Deaths in infants under 1 year of age

Under 1 week ... ... 2.

1 - 4 weeks ... ... 1.

1 - 6 months ... ... 2.

6 - 12 months ... ... 1.

Causes of deaths in infants under 1 year of age -

Broncho Pneumonia . ... 3.

Whooping Cough ... ... 1.

Congenital Malformation . ... 1.

Complicated Maternal Labour ... ... 1.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 19
Deaths from Measles 0
Deaths from Whooping Cough 1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years).. 0
Deaths from Diptheria 0

Causes of deaths were:-

	Male	Female
Cancer	9	10
Heart Disease	13	7
Cerebral Haemorrhage & Thrombosis	4	7
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	3
Pneumonia	1	0
Broncho Pneumonia	3	4
Bronchitis	4	7
Silicosis	6	0
Asthma	1	0
Phthisis	1	1
Influenza	1	2
Whooping Cough	0	1
Nephritis	6	3
Syphilis	1	0
Thyroid Disease	0	1
Nervous Disease	1	1
Accidental Death	7	2
Suicide	1	0
Senile Decay	1	11
Digestive Disease	2	3
Birth Injury or Malformation	0	2
Cyshtis	0	1
Diabetes	0	1

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority:-
   (a) Temporary Medical Officer of Health (Part-Time).
   (b) Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer.
   (c) Surveyor and Water Engineer.

2. (a) Laboratory Facilities (No change).
   (b) Ambulance Facilities (No change).
   (c) Nursing in the Home.

The District Nurses provide an excellent service. It is considered that they need extra assistance.

It is hoped that the future home help scheme will assist women in charge of families, as it is often impossible to rest them adequately in case of necessity.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

(i) Tuberculosis patients receive attention at Leigh House, Radstock under the County Council.. Service satisfactory.

(ii) Venereal Disease. The nearest clinics are at Bath and Bristol.

(iii) Infant and Child Welfare Services. Excellent work is done at the monthly clinic. There is room for improvement at present beyond the workers control, e.g., more suitable buildings are still required.

(iv) Maternity Services. Some difficulty is still found by mothers in finding suitable accommodation for confinements. This is somewhat eased lately owing

to the improved housing situation. It is considered that the limited local hospital accommodation at the Memorial Hospital, Paulton should be reserved for abnormal cases.

(e) Hospitals (Public and Voluntary)(No change).

The Joint Isolation Hospital at Paulton serves the whole area for infectious disease, and carries out disinfection of bedding, etc.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area -

(1) Water.

(a) The District is supplied from three sources -

(i) The Bottlehead Springs at Downhead.
(ii) Downside and Gurney Slade Springs.
(iii) Chilcompton Springs.

Tests of the water supply during the year have been very satisfactory.

The water has no plumbo-solvent action on lead.

No form of contamination is known.

With few exceptions, all dwelling houses are supplied from the public mains and chiefly by direct supply into the house, in other cases to a stand pipe near the dwelling.

Analysis of water not connected with the Council's supply ... Nil.

(b) No extensions of mains carried out during the year.

(c) Shortages:- Curtailment of supplies was necessary from the 15th of September to the 20th of November owing to drought.

(d) No special works contemplated.

During the year the storage tank at Writhlington has been erected and the system of supply to this area has been put into operation.
This part of the area is now well supplied with water.

(2) Swimming Bath.

A scheme has been prepared for the improvement of the existing open air swimming bath at Welton. The bath has been closed for several years.

It is proposed to supply the water for the bath from the Council's mains and to installa purification plant for constant treatment of the water. The baths will be remodelled and new dressing cubicles constructed.

The estimated cost of the new works is £1,900.

(3) River Pollution.

There were no cases dealt with during the year.

The River Somer often gets blackened with discharge from Old Mills Colliery screening plant. As this plant is in the area of a neighbouring authority, they have been notified.

(4) Sanitation.

There are two modern sewage disposal plants in the District, and a large percentage of the houses are linked to the sewers.

No new work has been undertaken during the year, but a drainage scheme is in contemplation for the Thicket Mead area of Midsomer Norton, to replace the present septic tank system.

The River Catchment Authority cleared the river in the vicinity of the sewage works and upstream to mitigate flooding and sewage deposits in the lower parts of Radstock.

(5) Housing.

It is with great satisfaction the tremendous progress made with the erection of new houses is noted. It is also true that housing remains the major concern of the district, many houses many years condemned of necessity still being inhabited. The district, being a coal-mining area, is scheduled for mining development. In view of the importation of miners, and the allocation of houses to them, it is a matter of regret that there is not sufficient building to relieve the bad conditions under which persons other than miners are housed.

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection		Conversion to flats of dwellings
	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	
Local Authority	36	-	16	-	1 house into 6 flats.
Private enterprise	10	-	14	-	
Totals	46	-	30	-	1

Houses required -

(a) To replace those unfit	50
(b) To abate overcrowding	40
(c) Where conditions are unsatisfactory, e.g., two families living in same house, but not included in (a) or (b)	390
Total number of applicants for Council houses at the end of the year	700

SECTION E.

A. Milk Supply.

(a) Total number of registered dairy farms ...	38
(b) Number of retailers	18
(c) Number of producer-retailers included in (b)	16
(d) Number of licensed pasteurizing plants ...	0
(e) Number of heat treatment plants not included in (d) ...	2

There are three Tuberculin Tested and 5 Accredited Producers.

Number of licences given to graded milk producers by the County Council - Accredited 5 Tuberculin Tested 3.

Number of licences for Pasteurization by Local Authority . Nil.

It is hoped that ultimately all cattle will be Tuberculin Tested, and only T.T. milk supplied.

The County Council laboratory undertakes the examination of samples of milk and churn washings and cleanliness of milk bottles.

During the year all samples of milk for cleanliness and tuberculosis examination were taken by Somerset County sampling officers.

B. Meat and Other Food.

Slaughter Houses - Licensed 8
Registered 0

Knackers Yards. There are none registered in this District.

C. Adulteration.

No action has been taken under the Sales of Drugs Act.

D. Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

The County Council Laboratories at Taunton carry out any examination necessary.

Ice Cream:-

No. of premises registered for:

(a) Manufacture 8
(b) Sale 11

The standard of premises, although complying with the Food and Drugs Act, are not compatible with modern requirements. It is hoped that restrictive legislation to ensure better conditions will soon be made.

E. Nutrition.

The general standard of children is satisfactory, and it is considered that the health and physique of children is improving. The distribution of milk in schools and provision of school meals continues to be valuable in this respect.

F. Notifiable Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) during the Year.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	15	5	0
Measles	48	0	0
Whooping Cough	29	0	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	0
Cerebral Spinal Meningitis	1	1	0
Pneumonia	12	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	0
Erysipilas	1	0	0

Vaccination.

No vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1907.

Diphtheria

No cases were reported in this District.

Number of children immunized during the past year:-

Under 5 years	Between 5 - 14 Years	3rd Injection
155	42	369

Scabies.

Few cases are now encountered, and are treated by the family doctor concerned.

Tuberculosis.

	Total cases notified	Total Deaths
Respiratory	6	3
Non-Respiratory	0	0

My thanks are due to my colleagues for their great and essential assistance in preparing this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

(signed) A.H. BULLEID (Dr.)